accelerated processing and implementation of FDI, enlarging the list of industries eligible for automatic approval of FDI liberalising norms for automatic approval of technological collaboration, reducing the number of industries under compulsory licensing, allowing for 100% foreign equity participation in power sector for electricity generation, transmission and distribution provided foreign equity does not exceed Rs. 1500 crores. All these measures are expected to promote investment and attract more foreign capital to India. No country specific policy changes have been proposed.

Development of growth centres in Maharashtra

4348. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the development of five growth centres in Maharashtra is very dismal due to non-release of funds by the Central Government and neglect by the State Government;

(b) if so, the details of each of the industrial growth centre with their latest status and reasons for their non-completion so far; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to complete the growth centres in the State so that pace of industrialisation begins?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The five growth centres allotted and approved in the State of Maharashtra have already been released Central assistance of Rs. 23.40 crores and the State Government has incurred a total expenditure of Rs. 39.68 crores for development of the growth centres as detailed below:

(Rs. Lakhs)

Name of Growth Center	Central Assistance Released	Total expenditure reported upto 31.12.97	Remarks
Akola	750	1347	625 hect. of land acquired 689 plots developed
Chandrapur	400	836	630 hect. of land acquired.
Dhule	200	327	707 hect. of land acquired
Nanded	550	986	645 hect. of land acquired
Ratanagiri	440	472	Rs. 414 lakhs have been spent on industrial infrastructure.

Central assistance limited to Rs. 10 crores per centre is to be released depending upon the financial and physical progress achieved by the State Government which is responsible for the implementation of the Growth Centres.

Public Audit for PSUs

4349. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the PSUs do not come under the purview of public audit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c) PSUs are subjected to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General and Parliamentary scruitiny, which ensure public accountability.

Workers covered by VRS

4350. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers covered by the Voluntary Retirement Scheme since the inception of National Renewal Fund;

(b) the total amount disbursed so far; and

(c) the number of workers who were redeployed after their retirement under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) A total number of 1,09,421 workers have been covered under Voluntary Retirement Scheme of National Renewal Fund, as on 31.3.98, disbursing an amount of Rs. 2019.84 crore.

(c) The National Renewal Fund scheme of retraining and redeployment is open to all rationalised workers in organised sector. A total number of 6,712 workers have been redeployed, as on 31.3.98, under the scheme.

Industry Growth Centres

4351. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industry growth centres allotted to the country, especially in the North East States;

(b) the number of growth centres which have been completed and have started functioning;

(c) whether there is any time-bound programme for completing the construction of the growth centres;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (e) Under the Growth Centre Scheme, 1988, 71 growth centres have been allotted for development throughout the country of which 9 centres have been allotted to the North East States.

The total number of growth centres approved so far is 66 of which 13 centres have been released full Central assistance of Rs. 10 crores each. Distribution of plots has commenced in 23 centre and the remaining centres are at various stages of development for implementation in the IX plan.

बाल श्रमिक और बाल शिक्षु में अन्तर

4352. **श्री चीमन भाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या बाल-श्रमिक और बाल शिक्षु में कोई अन्तर है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन दोनों का वर्गीकरण कैसे किया जाता है;

(ग) देश की पारम्पारिक कलाओं के विकास हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या योजना तैयार की गई है; और

(घ) बाल-श्रमिकों के लिए प्रारम्भ की गई योजनाओं की अब तक कितनी बार समीक्षा की गई है?

श्रम मंत्री (डा॰ सत्यनारायण जटिया): (क) और (ख) शिक्षु अधिनियम, 1961 और बालश्रम (प्रतिषेध और विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1986 के अन्तर्गत बाल श्रमिक और बाल शिक्षु के बीच, विशेष रूप में कोई अन्तर नहीं किया गया है। तथापि, बाल श्रम (प्रतिषेध और विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1986 में कतिपय व्यवसायों और प्रक्रियाओं में बच्चों के नियोजन के प्रतिषेध की व्यवस्था है।

(ग) विकास आयुक्त (हस्तशिल्प) का कार्यालय देश में परम्परागत शिल्पों के विकास और संवर्धन तथा परम्परागत कला को संरक्षित रखने के लिए अनेक योजनाएं क्रियान्वित कर रहा है। इनमें शामिल हैं: (i) हुनर सिखाने के लिए दस्तकारों को प्रशिक्षण, (ii) डिजाइन एवं तकनीकी विकास (iii) प्रदर्शनियों, शिल्प मेलों, हस्तशिल्प प्रदर्शनों, आदि जैसे क्रियाकलापों के लिए विपणन विकास सहायता, (iv) शिल्प विकास केन्द्रों की स्थापना के लिए सहायता और (v) प्रतिभाशाली दस्तकारों को राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार प्रदान करना आदि।

इसके अलावा, देश की परम्परागत कला को संरक्षित रखने के लिए क्षेत्रीय हस्तशिल्प क्यूजियम स्थापित करने और समस्याओं की पहचान, प्रशिक्षण, डिजाइन विकास, प्रचार विपणन आदि जैसे अनेक उपायों के माध्यम से लुप्त हो रही शिल्पों के पुनरूज्जीवन के लिए सहायता मुहैया करायी जा रही है।

(घ) बाल श्रम योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत शुरू किए गए कार्यक्रम के प्रबोधन के लिए केन्द्र और राज्य सरकार द्वारा नियमित रूप से आवधिक समीक्षाएं की जाती है।

Outstanding statutory dues of workers

4353. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations of the Group of Ministries regarding clearance of outstanding statutory dues of workers;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision on the recommendations; and

(c) if any, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The final recommendations of the Group of Ministers